

**Meeting Notes: Bingham Update**  
**Giles Horney Building, Magnolia Room**  
**January 27, 2011**

The group met at 5 p.m. in the Magnolia Room of the Giles Horney Building. In attendance were Cliff Leath, Laura Streitfeld, Walt Lobotsky, Jack Pless, Alex Castro Jr., Hiawatha and Karen Demby, Tony Blake, Tom Schopler, Will Raymond, Virginia Godfrey, Bob Lowman, Linda Convissor, Mary Beth Koza, and Susan Houston.

This meeting, after being postponed twice because of snowy weather and icy roads, was called to tell the neighbors more about the change in plans for the use of the Bingham Facility going forward.

Lowman introduced the meeting by explaining that the School of Medicine's change in strategic plans for the Bingham Facility was largely a result of the current recession. Instead of housing expanded facilities for large animal research, the Bingham Facility will now return to its historical purpose as a place to check the health status of new animals and as overflow and swing space for research animals (mostly rats, mice and other small animals) on campus.

One major effect of the change in plans is that a new wastewater treatment system would no longer be necessary since waste from smaller animals can be captured on bedding and taken to transfer station in Durham and then to an out-of-state landfill. Instead, the existing permitted Advantex system will be refurbished and other changes made to the ponds and sprayfields to meet the requirements for the permit.

Much of the meeting was devoted to answering a list of questions submitted in advance by Preserve Rural Orange. (For UNC's written responses, select **Jan. 27, 2011: Response to PRO questions** on the Bingham Facility website at <http://www.unc.edu/community/ingham.html>.)

During the discussion, these three particular issues seemed to be of greatest concern to the neighbors:

- **Water tank for fire suppression.** Tony Blake of the White Cross Volunteer Fire Department expressed concern that the lack of a water tank on the site could affect their ability to fight fires at the facility and therefore negatively impact their next Insurance Service Office rating and the insurance rates of the neighbors. Lowman said the University isn't able to fund the water tank at this time but he hopes that it might be feasible in the future..
- **Noise.** Nearby neighbors Lobotsky and the Dembys expressed concern about noise, from pump and haul and construction activities as well as the chillers and other HVAC equipment for Building 3. Lowman said the noisy chillers will either be moved or replaced with smaller, quieter chillers and that University staff would check into the other noise issues.
- **Memorandum of Understanding.** Neighbors and PRO representatives asked for an MOU between the University and themselves that would put in writing agreements regarding communications, safety, compliance, environmental practices, buffers and future uses. After Lowman said an MOU binding the University on all these issues wouldn't be possible, there was discussion of the purpose and feasibility of an MOU. Lowman agreed to consider a statement of principles and practices that the University would follow, such as that neighbors would be notified of a significant malfunction of any major mechanical, plumbing or electrical system and told in advance when "buffer trees" needed to be removed.